



REPRESENTING ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 35

Assemblymember **Pedro Nava**



www.assembly.ca.gov/nava

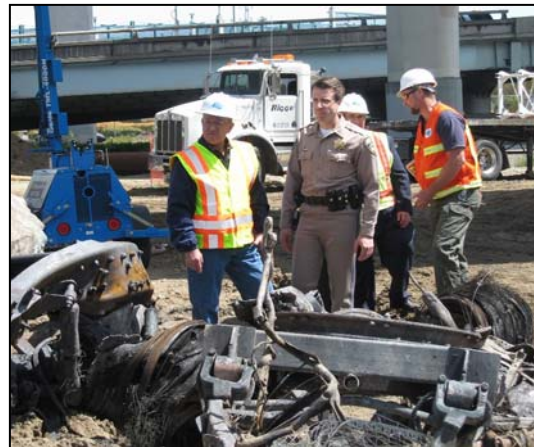
MAY 2007

Assemblymember Nava Tours Site of Bay Area Bridge Collapse

Oakland-Residents refer to it as the McArthur Maze. For commuters, it is the most congested route in the San Francisco Bay Area. In the early morning of Sunday, April 29, 2007, this massive freeway interchange became a fiery inferno.

Within minutes of the early morning accident that left a tanker truck, carrying over 8,600 gallons of gasoline, on its side, temperatures in the immediate area reached over 2,000 degrees. Bolts and steel girders melted, the overhead bridge structure gave way, and this transportation lifeline for thousands of Bay Area commuters was severed.

As soon as the fire died out, Assemblymember Pedro Nava, Chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee and Chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security, was on site inspecting the damage and its aftermath. Joined by the California Highway Patrol Captain Scott Howland and Caltrans District Director Bijan Sartipi, Assemblymember Nava toured the site and met with officials to discuss HazMat licensing and comprehensive planning of appropriate travel for HazMat vehicles on state roadways.



Assemblymember Nava (left) and CHP official examine charred remains of gasoline tanker truck.

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Assemblymember Nava Relays Lessons Learned from Riviera Evacuation Drill to Sacramento

Santa Barbara - About two dozen agencies, including the American Red Cross, the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement agencies, participated in a full scale evacuation drill of the Riviera on Saturday, April 28.

Residents were notified in advance and received a reverse 911 call from the police dispatch prompting them to leave their homes, some with their pets, to simulate the mass exodus that would accompany a fire in the area.

Nava attended and promised to take the lessons learned during the drill and apply them in his role as Chair of the Joint Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security. ♦

Photos: *Right top:* Assemblymember Nava joins MERRAG volunteers.

Right bottom: State Farm Insurance contributed to the success of the event.



Assemblymember Pedro Nava is considering legislation that would require tanker drivers in California to demonstrate proficiency hauling liquids before they're allowed to haul hazardous materials.

"The public would be better served if a driver would have to operate a similar truck for three years," Nava said. "We know the physical properties of a truck with 8,600 gallons of liquid are different than 8,600 basketballs. Before you haul gasoline, maybe you have to haul milk."

The California Highway Patrol is continuing its investigation into the accident. ◇

Safe Routes to School Law Scheduled to Sunset

Assemblymember Nava Wants it Extended

Sacramento – The Safe Routes to Schools law is scheduled to expire in 2008. Knowing how important this law is to school safety, Assemblymember Nava co-authored AB 57 to keep the program alive.

AB 57 deletes the January 1, 2008 sunset on the Safe Routes to School (SR2S) construction program administered by Caltrans. This bill will allow for the continued allocation, starting in 2008-09, of tens of millions of dollars of federal transportation safety funds through the SR2S program as local assistance for bicycle and pedestrian safety projects.

Recently, Nava's office met with Caltrans for a site visit on February 22, 2007 to examine the stretch of State Highway 192 between Barker Pass and Ashley Road. At Nava's urging, Caltrans has taken several actions to make this route safer for children walking or bicycling to Cold Springs School. Actions already taken by Caltrans include extending limit lines and moving parking signs for increased visibility as well as moving school speed limit signs to provide improved warning for drivers to slow down.

To learn more regarding the Safe Routes to School programs please visit this website: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/saferoute2.htm> ◇



The term "Safe Routes to School" was first used in Denmark in the late 1970s as part of a very successful initiative to reduce the number of children killed while walking and bicycling to school. Safe Routes to School spread internationally, with programs springing up throughout Europe and in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States. California was one of the first states in the nation to institute this program.

Junior League of Santa Barbara Renovates Eastside Public Library

Santa Barbara – To further their goal of promoting literacy among youth, the Junior League of Santa Barbara's Provisional Class volunteered to renovate the children's areas of the Santa Barbara Eastside Branch Public Library.

Project Chair Beth Bailey thanked the Eastside Library staff as well as community partners for their assistance over the last 10 weeks at the unveiling ceremony April 28, 2006. In that short time, the Junior League raised over \$25,000 in cash and over \$40,000 in donated goods and service for total benefit to the library of close to \$70,000. The renovation project included the addition of over 100 new books, 6 new computers, a story time, toddler and teen areas, a landscaped patio and revamped multipurpose room and entry way.



Assemblymember Nava (center) with families in front of the renovated Eastside Public Library.

Assemblymember Nava presented the Junior League with a Resolution from the California State Assembly for their efforts at the Eastside Library as well as their commitment to the community for over eighty years. "By providing a 'Happy Place for Kids' where literacy and learning are encouraged in a safe and positive setting the Junior League and its supporters are investing in our youth and strengthening our community", said Assemblymember Nava.

For more information about the Junior League visit their website at: <http://www.jlsantabarbara.org/>. ◇

Assemblymember Nava Plants Trees at El Camino Elementary School with Goleta Valley Beautiful

Goleta - Assemblymember Pedro Nava joined Goleta Valley Beautiful (GVB), Southern California Gas Company, Goleta Union School District and the American Lung Association on Saturday, April 21, 2007 to plant sneezeless trees at El Camino Elementary School.

"I am honored to participate in this special sneezeless tree planting at El Camino Elementary School sponsored by Goleta Valley Beautiful," said Nava. "Not only do trees help beautify our community, and help the environment, these trees were selected because of their low pollen count."



Assemblymember Nava (left) helps plant a tree with GVB volunteers.

For the past several years GVB has been planting over 500 trees each year. Over 1000 volunteers have been assisting GVB each of these years, including many local high school and college students. Each month a residence and a business are recognized by GVB for beautification efforts.

For more information about GVB log on at www.goletavalleybeautiful.org or call 805-252-1952. ♦

Assemblymember Pedro Nava Honors Holocaust Survivor Bernd Simon in State Capitol

Sacramento- Assemblymember Pedro Nava honored Mr. Bernd Simon in the Chambers of the California State Assembly in a tribute to Survivors of the Holocaust. California Holocaust Memorial Week recognizes Holocaust survivors in the state and gives remembrance to the millions who lost their lives at the hands of the Nazi Regime. Every year there are fewer Holocaust survivors to tell their stories. Collecting the stories of the

survivors passes on the knowledge of events of the Holocaust to future generations. Transferring this knowledge ensures that the realities of the Holocaust's horrors are never forgotten and never reoccur.

Mr. Simon was selected by Assemblymember Nava for his selfless and courageous sharing of his life's story to further a cause that is vital to our future and our children's future.

"It is a great privilege for me to honor Bernd Simon for his work in sharing and preserving his story for future generations," said Assemblymember Pedro Nava. "We must never forget the horrors that can come to pass if we are not vigilant. The way to do this is to be good stewards of history and by preserving every person's story. It takes great courage to share these stories and I commend him for his bravery."



(Courtesy of Russel Stiger) Bernd Simon (right), seated on the Assembly Floor with Assemblymember Nava.

In addition to the ceremony, the California State Assembly produces a book of essays each year with the stories that have been collected across the state. Over 60 Holocaust survivors were honored from throughout California. An Assembly Resolution was presented declaring April 16-20, 2007, "California Holocaust Memorial Week." ♦

Assemblymember Pedro Nava Authors Assembly Resolution Declaring April 2007 as "Autism Awareness Month"

Sacramento- Assemblymember Pedro Nava passed an Assembly Resolution that names the month of April, "Autism Awareness Month" in California. The number of persons with autism in California has doubled between 1998 and 2002, and approximately 3,000 individuals with autism are newly diagnosed every year. Autism is a developmental disorder that is typically diagnosed during the first three years of life and limits an individual's ability to communicate and interact with others. Autism is four times more likely to occur in boys than in girls, but can affect anyone, regardless of race, and ethnicity.

"By dedicating April as Autism Awareness Month in California, I want to raise awareness of the need for continued research, treatments and early intervention," said Nava. "Additionally, I want to highlight the struggles faced by the many families who have an autistic child, and that we all recognize their sacrifice and dedication in providing for the special needs of their children."

Current research being conducted into the biological causes and treatment regimens for autism, like that being undertaken at the Medical Investigation of Neurodevelopmental Disorders (M.I.N.D.) Institute at the University of California, Davis, is showing great promise and should be encouraged and supported. Early intervention behavior analysis programs have shown that a program of intensive early intervention treatment that focuses on a multidisciplinary approach, relying in large part on family and community participation, can produce a positive outcome for children with autism.

The Autism Society of America, Cure Autism Now, the National Alliance for Autism Research, Unlocking Autism, and numerous other organizations commemorate April as National Autism Awareness and the State of California now joins this special group. ♦

Assemblymember Pedro Nava Hosts Business Resource Expo in Ventura

Ventura- Assemblymember Pedro Nava hosted his second annual Ventura County Business Resource Expo on April 20 at the Four Points By Sheraton in Ventura. The Expo was co-sponsored by the California Small Business Association and the Ventura Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation, the Oxnard and Gold Coast Hispanic Chambers of Commerce. More than two hundred people attended the event representing every segment of the business community.

The Expo focused on bringing resources to the Ventura County business community on how to do business with the federal, state and local governments. Many public and private organizations were on hand to provide information and resources to businesses and prospective entrepreneurs.



Assemblymember Nava with Expo partners and sponsors, (from left to right) Zoe Taylor-CEO, Ventura Chamber, Assemblymember Nava, Mike Silacci-AT&T, Nancy Lindholm-CEO, Oxnard Chamber

Nava said, "Every year, millions of dollars in opportunities are awarded to qualified businesses in our state. This is my way to help local business owners. I look forward to working with our sponsors and partners for an even better Expo next year."

If you would like more information regarding the Expo or on any other business related matter please contact Mr. Nava's District Office. ♦

Assemblymember Nava Welcomes Community Groups to Capitol

Sacramento- Last month, Ventura County community organizations, the Ventura County Leadership Academy (VCLA) and the Oxnard Police Activities League (PAL), visited the State Capitol and toured the Assembly Floor with Assemblymember Pedro Nava.

The VCLA, founded in 1994, is an initiative of United Way of Ventura County. The purpose of VCLA is to create opportunities to develop leaders who will enhance the quality of life in Ventura County. The group was in Sacramento to learn about state government and special interest groups. The theme was, "Understanding the mechanisms of the state government, its impact on the agenda of state leaders and options for the future."

PAL, established in 1994, is a city-wide program that provides outreach to local at-risk youth to build positive relationships between youth, police officers and the community. Educational, cultural and recreational activities are offered to the youth with emphasis placed on reaching those "at-risk".

For more information on VCLA, call: Susan Lefevre at 805-485-6288, ext. 260 or vcla@vcunitedway.org

For more information on Oxnard PAL, call: Terrel Harrison at 805-385-8230 or kenklopman@oxnardpd.org



Assemblymember (center) with Ventura Leadership Academy participants on the Assembly Floor.



Assemblymember Nava (2nd to Left) welcomes Oxnard PAL on the Assembly Floor.

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